



DNR Staff Provide Spill Response and Support

No one plans a spill; they are typically caused by accidents of some sort, but when they do occur, there are statutory requirements people must comply with. The Wisconsin Statutes mandate that spills of hazardous substances be immediately reported and cleaned up to protect Wisconsin's citizens and resources. If and when a spill occurs, the DNR has staff in each of the Regional offices to help in a variety of ways.

Activating a DNR Response

When calls are made to the hotline during the day, the information comes directly to the DNR office in Madison, and is forwarded to the nearest available warden for follow-up. During the evening hours, the phone calls are directed to the State Patrol, who will forward the information to a DNR Duty Officer. That Duty Officer will make sure the local warden is alerted to the situation. Depending on the nature of the spill, local officials may also be activated to assist at the scene. These officials can be fire department staff, hazmat specialists, or local police or sheriff department staff.

*The DNR encourages
the public to report
hazardous substance
spills using the 24-
hour toll-free
hotline:
1-800-943-0003*

DNR Field Response

DNR Wardens

The first responders to a hazardous substance spill for the DNR typically are the DNR wardens. Wardens are local - each county has at least one warden working within the county. They have training in response activities and can assist local law enforcement officials, help set up protective barriers for small spills, or assist the responsible party in managing the spill. Wardens also know the local resources, including other response agencies like the fire departments, as well as the natural resources for which they are stewards.

When a warden gets a call about a spill, their follow up may include additional phone calls to get more information about the nature of the spill, going to the site, requesting other DNR assistance (i.e. fish managers, water resources staff, spill coordinators), or when an emergency situation occurs and the responsible party is not available or willing to take action, calling in the DNR Zone Contractor to respond to the spill.

The DNR has contracted with emergency response companies to provide statewide emergency response services to discharges of hazardous substances when responsible parties are unable or unwilling to take necessary actions to respond to an emergency situation. These companies can provide a response within 2 hours of notification, and specialize in emergency response, spill containment and removal. They are able to assess a situation, take actions to prevent spilled materials from harming the public or the environment, sample substances to determine how to manage them, containerize the spilled materials in suitable containers, and remove those substances from the spill site to a secure facility until analyses are completed to determine their final placement. At the conclusion of the response, the department seeks cost recovery for the response costs from the responsible party.

Regional Spill Coordinators

Spill Coordinators are available in each of the Regional DNR offices who specialize in technical spill response issues. These staff are available before, during, and after spills occur.

Before spills occur...

The spill coordinators are part of local planning and response networks. They work with local emergency planning agencies, talk to the local fire departments about spill response issues, and work with the wardens to ensure a consistent DNR approach to spill response. In addition, the spill coordinators work with local industries who may handle hazardous substances as part of their business to provide them with technical support for spill prevention as well as spill response.

During a Spill...

When a spill occurs, the wardens are typically the first responders. However, the spill coordinators can provide assistance in a variety of ways. Spill coordinators have developed packets of information that are provided to persons who are responsible for the spill. Included in these packets are information on DNR regulations, additional DNR

contact persons, as well as listings of local contractors and waste management organizations who can assist the responsible party in management of the residual spilled material. The spill coordinator is often consulted by the responsible party for technical advice on spill containment and cleanup.

After a Spill...

The spill coordinators are part of the Remediation and Redevelopment technical staff, and are familiar with DNR regulations relating to site investigation and cleanup. Although smaller cleanups do not receive direct DNR oversight, the coordinators can answer questions and guide responsible parties through the process.

State Spill Response Team

The DNR manages the spills program through the State Spill Response Team. This team is comprised of a State Spill Coordinator, a State Emergency Management Coordinator, a federal Removal Coordinator, the 5 Regional Spill Coordinators, and legal counsel. Through the interactions of these staff persons, we identify and resolve issues to make the spill response program as effective as possible, in an ever changing response mode.

Northeast Regional Spill Coordinator: Roxanne Chronert (920) 492-5592
Northern Regional Spill Coordinator: Norm Dunbar (715) 365-8963
Southeast Regional Spill Coordinator: Scott Ferguson (414) 263-8685
South Central Regional Spill Coordinator: Ted Amman (608) 275-3332
West Central Regional Spill Coordinator: John Grump (715) 839-3775
State Spill Coordinator: Robin Schmidt (608) 267-7569
State Emergency Response Coordinator: David Woodbury (608) 266-2598
Federal Removal Coordinator: Amy Walden (608) 267-5063
Legal Counsel: Joe Renville (608) 266-9454

